



**Dean A. Lerner, Director**

### **Restaurants without Water Should Not Be Operating**

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 9, 2008) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) reminds restaurants and other food service establishments that they should cease operation when clean, potable water is no longer available for their use. Restaurants in Mason City have been closed by the Cerro Gordo County Public Health Department as that community is currently without water.

The Iowa Food Code requires that food establishments cease operation when clean, potable water is no longer available. Restaurants should also close when sewage service becomes unavailable.

Once closed, a restaurant must be inspected by either a DIA food safety specialist or a representative from a local public health department under contract with the Department before reopening.

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*Closed restaurants*